

Honorary Fellow Mr Winfred Chan Hon-pun

Citation written and delivered by Dr John Leung Wai-keung

Chairman of the Council and President:

Before presenting Mr Winfred Chan Hon-pun to you, may I first talk about a special kind of textile that has been highly praised for centuries. The clothes made with this natural and valuable fibre display a distinguished quality of elegance. It is the silk obtained from the cocoons of the larvae of silkworms, which is then woven into different types of textiles. The production process of fabrics made from silk is highly sophisticated, demanding not only special skills in processing but also a strong aesthetic and artistic sensibility.

Mr Chan, who is conferred the title of Honorary Fellow, is an entrepreneur and philanthropist who started his business in the silk textile industry. His success through hard work is just like creating a piece of exquisite silk. He started working when he was a teenager. By upholding the belief of “doing ordinary deeds well”, he managed to become a successful business leader despite difficulties and setbacks. His wife, always standing by his side, has been his best companion over the years. Both enthusiastic for charity work, they light up the lives of others.

When Mr Chan’s business was flourishing, he was enlightened by Buddhist Master Hsing Yun and realised that life is just like a short journey, where men can take nothing with them when the journey ends. He therefore started committing himself to contributing to the well-being of the community.

The shimmering appearance of silk is due to the triangular prism-like structure of the fibre, which allows silk cloth to refract incoming light at different angles, thus producing different colours. I believe that Mr Chan, as an entrepreneur and philanthropist, does the same, passing his light to his

friends, family and the next generation, enabling them to acquire an elegant quality.

Master Hsing Yun advocates Humanistic Buddhism, with the objective of practicing Buddhism and spreading kindness in the world. Now a Buddhist, Mr Chan diligently studies and practices his religion. During his serving as President of the Buddha's Light International Association of Hong Kong, Director of the Buddha's Light International Association World Headquarters, and President and Member of the Rotary Club of Shatin, he has been actively participating in various charity works. Although he knows that it takes much time to nurture talent, he firmly believes society is the greatest beneficiary, and so he commits himself to supporting education.

Mr and Mrs Chan have made donations mainly to schools in the mainland and Taiwan in the past. About a decade ago, they made their first contact with City University of Hong Kong (CityU) through an activity co-organised with the Correctional Services Department. In 2014, they happened to attend a seminar organised by CityU and noticed that this young university had been striving to excel with a great deal of success. However, compared with traditional universities with a long history, CityU needs much more support from the public as it has not yet built up an extensive base of graduates with well-established careers. In view of this, Mr Chan chose CityU as the first local university to receive his donation. He later joined the Board of Governors of CityU Foundation and became more enthusiastic in supporting the University. His zealous efforts have facilitated several significant donations that have had a big impact on CityU's development.

The donations made by Mr and Mrs Chan have been used to support the University's long-term development and set up scholarships for students to go abroad for studies and exchange. In appreciation of the generous donations by Mr and Mrs Chan, CityU has named a lecture theatre as "Mr & Mrs Chan Hon Pun Lecture Theatre".

From his life's experience, Mr Chan knows well that one's mentality and attitudes matter far more than the deeds performed, and that the wisdom of "knowing thyself" is far more important than just being smart. He has shared this motto in the past with CityU's teachers and students: "We are ordinary people doing ordinary deeds. But such deeds done well will make your life extraordinary".

Mr Chairman and Mr President, Mr Winfred Chan Hon-pun is enthusiastic in supporting education and charity work, and he has contributed significantly to CityU's long-term development. It is my pleasure to present Mr Chan to you who has been conferred the title of Honorary Fellow.